



FACT SHEET

Television Direct to Sailors (TV-DTS)

Based upon a desire to better serve and improve the quality of life of sailors and Marines serving the United States on board U.S. Navy ships, American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) initiated studies in 1995 to determine the feasibility of providing full-time, satellite delivered television services directly to Navy ships worldwide.

Full operational capability for the Television - Direct to Sailors (TV-DTS) satellite system was reached on 23 December 1997 with the activation of the third and last transponder on an International Telecommunications Satellite (INTELSAT) (now New Skies) platform for the Indian Ocean Region. This was preceded on 1 October 1997 and 3 December 1997 with the activation of transponders on INTELSAT satellites over the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean Regions, respectively. Using global, premium transponders these three satellites provide TV-DTS with almost complete coverage of all oceans and seas where U.S. Navy ships are deployed.

The initial TV-DTS service was received by twenty large platform (aircraft carriers, amphibious, and command ships) already equipped with three-meter television receive-only (TVRO) satellite antennas. A standard TV-DTS TVRO terminal system was procured by the Naval Space and Warfare Systems (SPAWARS) command. Initial installations began during the 1st Quarter FY 99. All TV-DTS program ships (except new construction) had their terminal installed and operational by the end of FY 02. There are presently 165 Navy ships, 23 MSC and 4 Coast Guard ships with TV-DTS.

The TV-DTS services consist of three channels of television (AFN News, AFN Sports and AFN Entertainment), three radio services, and a data channel. The Naval Media Center (NMC) operates a full-time TV-DTS control room at the DMC, March Air Reserve Base, CA. Through this facility the NMC inserts Navy Department unique information programming in the TV-DTS programming services.

The TV-DTS radio services consist of two monaural music channels with rotating blocks of U.S. produced satellite programming in the Rock, Top-40, Oldies, Country, and Urban musical formats along with

hourly news and sports information. The third radio service is a full-time news, information and sports service consisting of a representative mix of the most popular radio services from all of the major U.S. radio networks.

The TV-DTS data channel provides Sailors and Marines on board Navy ships with U.S., DoD and Navy print products. These include: a daily New York Times Fax; a daily Stars & Stripes LT(eight page version of daily Stars and Stripes newspaper); the DoD "Early Bird"; the Navy News Service; CHINFO Clips; and, Navy internal information products.

The Scientific-Atlanta (S-A) PowerVu receiver/decoders for the TV-DTS service are provided by AFRTS and the U.S. Navy to U.S. Navy ships and some remote land based sites where U.S. military members are stationed.

Worldwide the TV-DTS service can be received with a TVRO antenna as small as 1.2 meters but the AFRTS recommended TVRO antenna size is 1.5 to 1.8 meters, if the larger size antenna can be accommodated at the site. Ships should refer all questions concerning their existing TV-DTS equipment to SPAWAR Systems Center Diego, the In-Service Engineering Activity (ISEA), and concerning future installation of TV-DTS equipment to Program Executive Office, Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence & Space (PEO C41 & Space, ATTN: PMW-176). Sites other than U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships should refer all TV-DTS issues and questions to AFRTS (POC phone/fax is: (703) 428-0616 (voice); (703) 428-0624 (fax), and e-mail address is: afrtce@hq.afis.osd.mil).

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